

October 2, 2018

Cathy Stepp
Regional Administrator
United States Environmental Protection Agency Region 5
Ralph Metcalfe Federal Building
77 West Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

Re: Groundwater quality concerns in vicinity of 7775 S. Quincy Street, Willowbrook, IL 60527

Dear Administrator Stepp,

I am writing to request your agency's assistance in providing answers and recommendations to concerns and questions associated with Sterigenics, 7775 S. Quincy Street, Willowbrook, Illinois 60527 (Facility). As you are aware, the Facility is a business that sterilizes medical equipment and products using ethylene oxide. The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry sent a letter to the United States Environmental Protection Agency dated August 21, 2018 outlining the results of their analysis of health risks associated with ethylene oxide gas from the above Facility. Release of the letter has resulted in significant concerns by local residents and local government officials about actual health impacts to residents in the vicinity of the Facility.

One particular area of concern that has arisen is in regard to groundwater impacts in the area around the Facility.

Here are several questions that I would very much appreciate your responses on to assist us in addressing locally:

- 1) Is there evidence of ethylene oxide or ethylene glycol in private well water near the Facility?
- 2) Are there identified health risks associated with ingestion of water with detectable levels of ethylene oxide or ethylene glycol?
- 3) Does your agency recommend sampling and testing private well water near the Facility for the presence of ethylene oxide, ethylene glycol, or any potential breakdown products associated with either chemical?

- 4) If sampling and testing is recommended, what additional recommendations does your agency have in regards to how to conduct the sampling and testing?
- a. Initially, how many private water wells should sampled and tested?
 - b. Which analytical test method is preferred?
 - c. Is there a recommended detection limit?
 - d. Are there any particular laboratories recommended to conduct the testing?
 - e. Are there are any sampling precautions or recommendations?
 - f. Are there any standards to apply to any detectable levels of chemicals that might be discovered?
 - g. Is there any funding available for such sampling and testing?

A prompt response to the above concerns will be greatly appreciated as time is of the essence.

Thank you for your concern, support, and assistance. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Karen J. Ayala
Executive Director
DuPage County Health Department

Cc: Dr. Mark Johnson, CDC-ASTDR
Tom Poy, USEPA